

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 507

October 26, 1995, 9:35 p.m.
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BALANCED BUDGET RECONCILIATION/Social Security Earnings Limit

SUBJECT: **Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995 . . . S. 1357. McCain amendment No. 2964.**

ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 99-0

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. 1357, the Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act of 1995, will result in a balanced budget in seven years, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). The bill will also provide a \$245 billion middle-class tax cut, \$141.4 billion of which will be to provide a \$500 per child tax credit.

The McCain amendment would express the sense of the Senate that it is the intent of Congress that legislation will be passed before the end of 1995 to raise the Social Security earnings limit for working seniors age 65 through age 69 in a manner that will ensure the financial integrity of the Social Security trust funds and that will be consistent with the goal of achieving a balanced budget in 7 years.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

The Social Security earnings test was created during the Depression era when senior citizens were being discouraged from working. This policy may have been appropriate when 50 percent of Americans were out of work, but it certainly is not appropriate today. For Social Security recipients age 65-69, the Social Security earnings test cuts benefits by \$1 for every \$3 they earn over \$11,160. This punitive tax rate mainly burdens senior citizens who need to supplement their Social Security earnings. Rich retirees, who receive generous sums from trust funds, pensions, stocks, and other forms of unearned income are not subjected to this test. They receive their full Social Security benefits. Every year since 1987 we have sought the repeal of this unjust denial of Social Security benefits to poor and middle-income retirees who are forced to work in their twilight years just to make ends meet. Every year we have failed to get Congress to pass this repeal. This year, with Republicans controlling both Houses of Congress, we are hopeful for a more favorable result. This amendment would express the sense of the Senate that we should finally end the Social Security earnings test this year. We urge our colleagues to approve this amendment.

(See other side)

YEAS (99)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (0)	
Republican (53 or 100%)		Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Inouye				
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Baucus	Johnston				
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Kennedy				
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Kerrey				
Brown	Kassebaum	Boxer	Kerry				
Burns	Kempthorne	Bradley	Kohl				
Campbell	Kyl	Breaux	Lautenberg				
Chafee	Lott	Bryan	Leahy				
Coats	Lugar	Bumpers	Levin				
Cochran	Mack	Byrd	Lieberman				
Cohen	McCain	Conrad	Mikulski				
Coverdell	McConnell	Daschle	Moseley-Braun				
Craig	Murkowski	Dodd	Moynihan				
D'Amato	Nickles	Dorgan	Murray				
DeWine	Pressler	Exon	Nunn				
Dole	Roth	Feingold	Pell				
Domenici	Santorum	Feinstein	Pryor				
Faircloth	Shelby	Ford	Reid				
Frist	Simpson	Glenn	Robb				
Gorton	Smith	Graham	Rockefeller				
Gramm	Snowe	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Grams	Specter	Heflin	Simon				
Grassley	Stevens	Hollings	Wellstone				
Gregg	Thomas						
Hatch	Thompson						
Hatfield	Thurmond						
	Warner						

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

1—Official Business
2—Necessarily Absent
3—Illness
4—Other

SYMBOLS:

AY—Announced Yea
AN—Announced Nay
PY—Paired Yea
PN—Paired Nay

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.